

REMARKS

Claims 2-9, 11-14, and 16-19 were presented for examination. Claims 7, 8, 11, 13 and 19 are found allowable subject to being rewritten in independent form.

To expedite prosecution, independent claim 2 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 5 and allowable claim 7. Independent claim 14 has been amended to include the limitation of allowable claim 19. Claims 5, 7 and 19 have been cancelled.

Newly added independent claim 23 contains the limitation of allowable claim 13. Newly added claim 24 dependent from claim 23 contains the limitation of allowable claim 11.

Newly added dependent claims 20-22 contain limitations deleted from the claims 2 and 14.

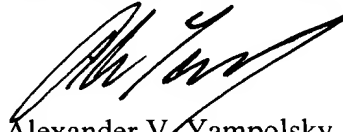
In view of the foregoing, claims 2-4, 6, 8, 9, 11-14, 16-18, and 20-24 are considered to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Application No.: 09/315,973

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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